

Environmental Studies

Selected Student: Natalie Blackwelder

Submitted by: Adam Green

Natalie has truly gone above and beyond in her efforts to not only learn the necessary concepts and skills in Environmental Studies, but to simultaneously use that knowledge and skill to improve the college. She has excelled in coursework, and as importantly she has excelled in her work as the ASG Commissioner of Sustainability. The work she does is difficult, often is fraught with multiple obstacles, and generally lacks any real compensation or accolades. Despite this challenge Natalie never stops moving forward with humility, grace, and admirable persistence. We are lucky to have Natalie working to make the college more sustainable and resilient and creating projects to improve the quality of life and education for our students.

Natalie's Words of Gratitude:

I started at Santa Barbara City College in the fall of 2017 and was immediately impressed with the school and its education. Though there are many people who have impacted my experience at SBCC in a positive way, such as my enthusiastic peers, I would like to personally thank Brett Land for helping me discover an appreciation for writing, Justina Buller for introducing me to the social complexities of environmentalism, Adam Green for being a mentor and source of knowledge, and Michelle Paddack for being an incredible idol and friend. Further, to all my professors past and present; your genuine concern for my education has not only held me accountable but has encouraged me to be the best student I can be. And last but not least, to all the friends I made through incredible groups like the Sustainability Committee and the campus Permaculture Garden— so many of you have inspired me to want to make a difference and to never stop learning. My time at SBCC has been incredibly memorable and I will take with me the knowledge acquired and friendships made.